I CLAIM ~~CLAIMS~~

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended):   A content scanning system for electronic documents such as emails comprising:

a)   link analyser ~~for identifying~~ operative to identify hyperlinks in document content; and

b)   means for causing a content scanner to scan objects referenced by links identified by the link analyser and to determine their acceptability according to predefined rules, the means being operative, ~~when~~ responsive to the link ~~is~~ being to an object external to the document ~~and~~ which object is determined by the content ~~analyser~~ scanner to be acceptable, to retrieve the external object and modify the document by replacing the link to the external object by one to a copy of the object stored on a trusted server.

Claim 2 (Original):   A system according to claim 1 wherein the link analyser a) and means b) are operative to recursively process links identified in such external objects.

Claim 3 (Original):   A system according to claim 2 in which only a maximum depth of recursion is permitted and the document is flagged as unacceptable if that limit is reached.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented):   A system according to claim 1 wherein if any linked-to object is determined by the content scanner to be unacceptable the document is flagged or modified to indicate that fact.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended):   A method of content-scanning electronic documents such as emails comprising:

a)   using a link analyser ~~for identifying~~ to identify hyperlinks in document content;

b)   using a content scanner to scan objects referenced by links identified by the link analyser and to determine their acceptability according to predefined rules~~, the means being operative,~~; and

c)   when <u>responsive to</u> the link ~~is~~ <u>being</u> to an object external to the document ~~and is~~ <u>which object is</u> determined by the content ~~analyser~~ <u>scanner</u> to be acceptable, ~~to retrieve~~ <u>retrieving</u> the external object and ~~modify~~ <u>modifying</u> the document by replacing the link to the external object by one to a copy of the object stored on a trusted server.

Claim 6 (Original):   A method according to claim 5 wherein the steps a) and b) are used recursively to process links identified in such external objects.

Claim 7 (Original):   A method according to claim 6 in which only a maximum depth of recursion is permitted and the document is flagged as unacceptable if that limit is reached.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented):   A method according to claim 5, wherein if any linked-to object is determined by the content scanner to be unacceptable the document is flagged or modified to indicate that fact.

Claim 9 (New):   A content scanning system for electronic documents comprising:

a link analyser operative to identify hyperlinks in content of a document; and

a processing system for causing a content scanner to scan objects referenced by hyperlinks identified by the link analyser and to determine acceptability of these scanned objects according to predefined rules, the processing system being operative, in response to a hyperlink being to an object that is external to the document and that is determined to be acceptable, to retrieve the external object and modify the document by replacing the hyperlink to the external object by a hyperlink to a copy of the object stored on a trusted server.

Claim 10 (New):   A system according to claim 9, wherein the link analyzer and the processing system are operative to recursively process hyperlinks identified in such external objects.

Claim 11 (New):   A system according to claim 10, wherein only a maximum depth of recursion is permitted and the document is flagged as unacceptable if that limit is reached.

Claim 12 (New):   A system according to claim 9, wherein if any linked-to object is determined by the content scanner to be unacceptable, the document is flagged or modified to indicate the unacceptability.